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2011 Monsoon Report 6

Report Categories:
Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

A good spell of monsoon rains during the last two weeks (ending September 7) has filled the existing rain deficit, bringing the cumulative weighted all India rainfall at 3 percent above the Long Period Average (782.2 mm for the period June 1 to September 7, 2011).

Unprecedented floods, caused by heavy monsoon rains over eastern India and Punjab, have displaced people, also affecting crops (though the extent of the damage is still being *assessed*). Except for dry and waterlogged regions, monsoon rains during the last few weeks have helped growth of kharif crops in most parts of the country. Kharif crops have been planted on 100.7 million hectares, almost 3 percent higher than last year. Better returns for crops like rice, soybean, cotton, sugarcane and castor during current season have prompted farmers to bring additional area under production.

General Information:

Monsoon Progress:

During the week ending September 7th, 23 out of 36 subdivisions covering central and south peninsular India received normal or above average rainfall (Figure 1). Parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Rayalaseema, Punjab and Haryana didn't receive sufficient monsoon rains. The total weighted all India rainfall average was 39 percent above the long period average (LPA), the highest weekly rainfall so far. A good spell of monsoon rains in 32 out of 36 meteorological subdivisions in last two weeks (ending September 7) has helped overcome the cumulative rain deficit. Data from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) indicate that the cumulative weighted all India rainfall was 3 percent above the LPA at 782.2 mm for the period June 1 to September 7, 2011 (Figure 2). With the current monsoon season approaching the end of its cycle, the withdrawal from Northwest India will likely begin toward second half of September.

Heavy rains take toll on lives in Orissa and Punjab:

Unprecedented floods caused by heavy monsoon rains over eastern India have displaced people across coastal and western parts of Orissa. Several rivers including the Mahanadi are overflowing and have breached river embankments. Excessive flooding has also submerged paddy fields. The Orissa State government has launched relief and rescue measures. Heavy rainfall in several parts of Punjab has also affected farmers and villages. Major reservoirs in the State have reached their maximum storage capacity. The Punjab State government has announced relief measures for families to also compensate for crop damage (paddy and cotton crops). Similarly, floods in sub-Himalayan region of West Bengal (overflowing Damodar River) have damaged the crop (mainly rice paddy). The full extent of damage is still being assessed.

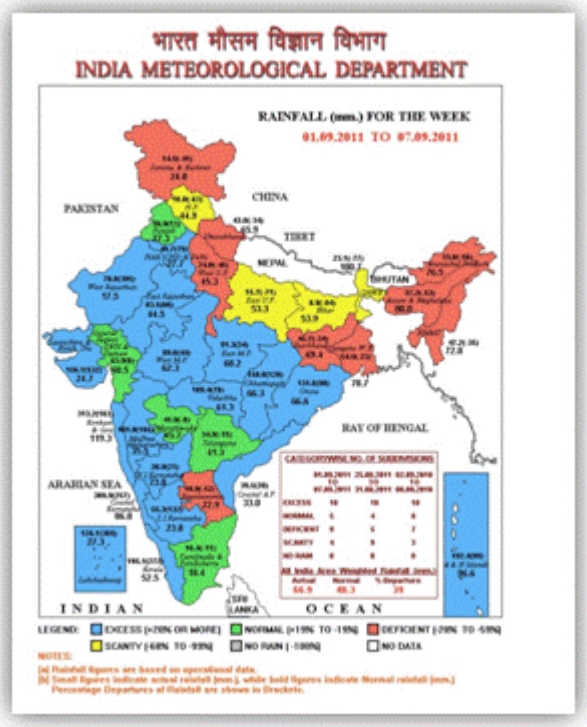
Crop Condition:

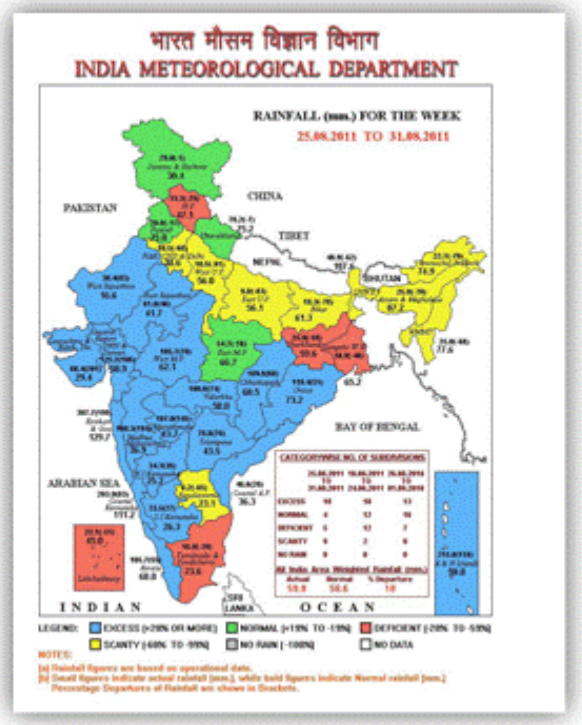
Monsoon rains have helped the growth of kharif crops in most parts of the country. However, insufficient or excessive rain has affected rice, maize, pigeon pea, cow pea, sesame and peanuts. Heavy rains have caused water stagnation in **rice paddy** fields of coastal Karnataka, West Bengal and upper Brahmaputra Valley Zone of Assam, **peanut and cotton** fields of North Gujarat, **soybean, cotton and maize** fields of Western and Central Madhya Pradesh. Continued heavy rains in these regions could damage standing crops and also make them susceptible to pest and disease infestations.

Progress of planting:

According to the latest planting progress report, kharif crops have been planted on 100.7 million hectares (equal to 96.3 percent of normal area under kharif crops), compared to the 97.8 million hectares during the same period last year. Kharif planting season is almost over. Better returns for crops like rice, soybean, cotton, sugarcane and castor during current season have prompted farmers to bring additional area under production. Water storage in major irrigation dams is higher than last year, and should positively impact the planting of winter crops like wheat, winter rice, rapeseed-mustard and pulses.

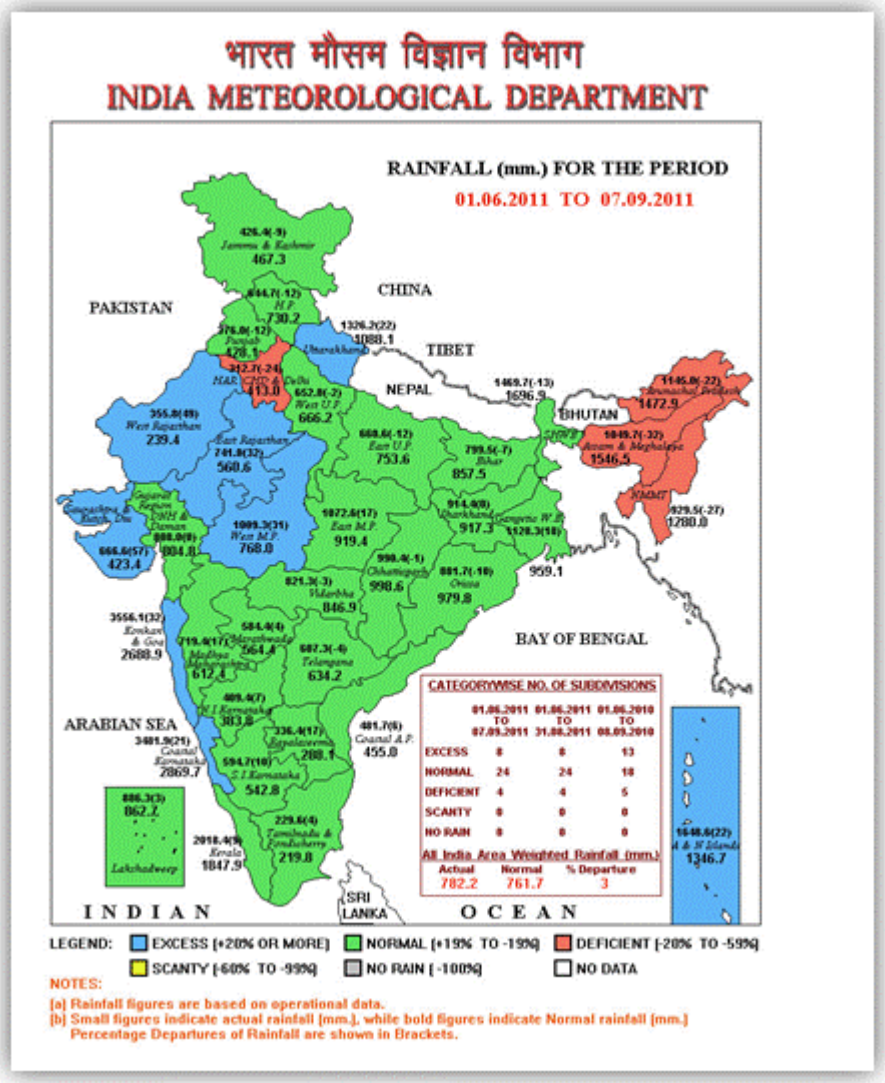
Figure 1: Rainfall during the period starting August 25 to September 07, 2011





Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

Figure 2: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to September 07, 2011



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI